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NSU: Job Fair for prospective teachers Potential teachers, school districts seek matches at NSU job fair

By NOUR HABIB World Staff Writer Nov 19, 2014



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NSU-BA education majors Leah Jones (from left) and Le Lai chat with Carol Rowland, a curriculum and instruction specialist CAP-Tulsa, during a job fair at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow on Tuesday. CORY YOUNG/Tulsa World

NSU College of

BROKEN ARROW — More than 100 students attended a teachers

Education enrollment

NSU is one of the highest producers of teachers in the state. Almost 700 students are enrolled as education majors in the university's College of Education.

The division by majors:

Early Childhood: 195

Elementary Education:

378

Special Education: 75

Physical Education: 50

* The only secondary program in the College of Education is physical education. The rest are in the content college.

job fair at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow on Tuesday.

The fair brought together recruiters from about 40 schools who were looking to fill positions ranging from special education teachers to secondary science and math teachers.

"A lot of offers are made during the event," said Gayle Anderson, director of NSU career services.

The event format included an open forum, in which students visited with representatives of different schools.

Students then had the option to schedule afternoon interviews with some of the schools.

NSU student Leah Jones, who is graduating in December, visited with several recruiters and set up interviews with three districts.

"I'm looking for an environment that fosters creativity," Jones said.

Le Lai, also graduating in December, said she attended the fair to see if she could find a school district that felt "right" for her.

"Salary is not the most important thing," said Lai, who hopes to teach kindergarten.

Lai said she's looking for a school that offers strong support for new teachers, and that builds relationships with students.

She interned with a school that conducted numerous home visits with parents and students, and she hopes to find a permanent position in a school that has similar priorities.

District representatives said they were happy with the candidates.

"We found a ton of candidates that we're really, really excited

about," said Tulsa Public Schools human capital specialist Cherie Crosby.

Crosby said TPS scheduled about 15 interviews for the afternoon.

Some districts were ready to make offers on Tuesday if they found the right candidate.

David McCune, director of special services for Enid Public Schools, said he scheduled four interviews for the afternoon and would make an offer to the candidates on the spot if they were a fit for his district.

McCune said his district had immediate openings for several positions, including special education, secondary math and science, world languages and elementary school teachers. Enid was also offering a \$2,000 signing bonus.

A few of the recruiters at the fair were representing out-of-state schools.

Doris Henderson, special education supervisor in Arkansas' Siloam Springs district, told students at the fair that her schools had several employees who commute from Oklahoma.

Henderson said the district was right across the state line.

"We've had people drive from Owasso and Claremore," she told a candidate.

Henderson said she came to the NSU career fair previously and hired Oklahoma candidates that she met.

"This is a really nice career fair," she said.

Jim Harshbarger, an assistant director for a special education cooperative composed of nine Kansas schools, said he travels to career fairs in many neighboring states.

“We can’t meet the demands in Kansas,” said Harshbarger, who hires special education teachers for the nine schools.

He said his cooperative hires 35 to 50 teachers a year, and universities in Kansas do not produce enough special education graduates to fill all the spots in the state’s schools.

“It’s the No. 1 need,” Harshbarger said of special education positions.

Districts were also looking for secondary science teachers, and Joshua Apple said several school representatives actively tried to recruit him.

“I’m the only science (education) major in the graduating class,” Apple said.

Most job seekers attending the fair were NSU students, but Anderson said University of Tulsa students were also invited because of a partnership between the two universities.